

**CITY OF GAUTIER
MEMORANDUM**

To: Samantha Abell, City Manager
From: Patty Huffman, Grants and Projects Manager
Through: Chandra Nicholson, Director of Economic Development and Planning
Date: August 12, 2014
Subject: Submission of an Application to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History for a 2nd Community Heritage Preservation Grant for the former Gautier Colored School

REQUEST:

The Economic Development and Planning Department requests City Council authorization to submit a grant application to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH) for a second Community Heritage Preservation Grant for the *Mississippi Landmark*, the (former) Gautier Colored School also known as the West Pascagoula Colored School. The building is located at 902 De La Pointe Drive at the entrance to George Martin City Park. The grant application must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on October 3, 2014.

BACKGROUND:

The Mississippi Legislature has approved the tenth round of funding for the Community Heritage Preservation (CHP) Grant Program. This program authorizes the Mississippi Department of Archives and History to make grants available for the preservation, restoration, development and interpretation of historic courthouses and school buildings. To be eligible, a building must be designated a *Mississippi Landmark* under the Antiquities Law of Mississippi prior to application. Only two buildings in Gautier are currently designated as Mississippi Landmarks, Gautier Elementary School and the (former) Gautier Colored School. The former schoolhouse was originally built in 1921 by patrons of the school as a one-room school for Gautier's African-American children and was used as a school until 1946. Later, the building was used as a community center and voting place. The building was designated as a *Mississippi Landmark* by MDAH on October 19, 2012 for both historical and architectural significance.

DISCUSSION:

The Gautier Historic Preservation Commission has identified the Gautier Colored School as an important historic site for preservation and future use as a welcome center with historic exhibits. The City received a CHP grant of \$80,000 last year with a \$20,000 match for phase one to stabilize the building. This process is currently underway, and a Steering Committee has been established to assist with fundraising. Last year, the City Council had approved applying for up to \$320,000 with an \$80,000 local match for the entire project. In order to complete the project, \$240,000 will be needed in additional grant funding which will require a \$60,000 local match. Although ongoing projects have an advantage, additional funding is not guaranteed. Applicants will be notified in December 2014 of the Board of Trustees' decision. All projects must be completed by December 1, 2017.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Economic Development and Planning Department recommends that City Council authorize submission of a grant application to MDAH for the Community Heritage Preservation Round X funding for the next phase of rehabilitation of the former Gautier Colored School as outlined above. City Council may:

1. authorize submission of a grant application and required match as outlined above; or
2. authorize submission of a grant application with changes; or
3. disapprove submission of a grant application.

ATTACHMENT(S): N/A